

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 NEA-14 DRC-01 FEA-02 ACDA-19

SCI-06 /181 W

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R 272115Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL WELLINGTON 2042

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: PM KIRK COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN MAJOR SPEECH BEFORE WELLINGTON PRESS CLUB JUNE 26 PM KIRK STRESSED HIS FEARS CONCERNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING. HE CALLED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND TOOK INDIA TO TASK FOR ITS RECENT TEST. WITHOUT NAMING THE US HE TOOK ISSUE WITH RECENT AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. CRITICISM OF FRANCE WAS MILD. END SUMMARY.

2. KIRK SAID A TREATY TO BAN TESTS IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS WOULD BE "GAUGE OF GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF THE MASSIVELY ARMED NUCLEAR POWERS." HE NOTED AS A MATTER "OF DEEP CONCERN" THAT THERE HAVE BEEN, ON AVERAGE, MORE NUCLEAR TESTS PER YEAR SINCE SIGNING OF LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY THAN THERE WERE BEFORE TREATY CAME INTO EFFECT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN THIRTY YEARS OF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATION NOT ONE NUCLEAR WEAPON HAS BEEN DESTROYED AS RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT TO DO SO.

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3. WITH REGARD TO INDIAN TEST KIRK STATED IT OPENED "AN UNFORTUNATE STABLE DOOR... ONE WHOSE REPERCUSSIONS WILL BE FELT FOR A VERY GREAT LENGTH OF TIME." HE ADDED, "INDIA'S TEST HAS SHOWN HOW FRAGILE THE CONTROL SYSTEM IS AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THE CONTINUING PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD COME TO AN END..."

4. WITHOUT NAMING US KIRK CAME DOWN HARD ON RECENT NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID, "IF...CONTROLS ARE UNILATERALLY SET ASIDE THERE IS NO WAY OF POLICING THEM SHORT OF INVASION...RECENT EVENTS LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS INCREASED THE POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR CONFLAGRATION UNLESS A GENUINE BASIS FOR A CONFIDENT PEACE BETWEEN THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES CAN BE FOUND."

5. KIRK TALKED AROUND FRENCH TESTING FOR SOME TIME STRESSING HIS DEEP CONCERN AND DISTRESS THAT FRENCH HAD NOT ABIDED BY THE RULE OF LAW, E.G., WORLD COURT INJUNCTION. TAKING NOTE OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT THAT FRANCE HAD NOT BEEN UNRECEPTIVE TO THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY NZ HE MADE POINT THAT OPPOSITION TO TESTS WAS NOT LIMITED TO FRANCE. BECAUSE TESTS THREATENED SURVIVAL OF HUMAN RACE "WE HAVE OPPOSED EQUALLY TESTS IN INDIA, IN BRITAIN, IN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES..."

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTS PM KIRK IS STEADFASTLY ANTI-NUCLEAR. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO REGULARLY PROTEST ATMOSPHERIC AND UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT NZ WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY. EMBASSY WOULD NOTE HERE THAT KIRK'S OPPOSITION TO THINGS NUCLEAR IS INFINITELY CLOSE TO TOTAL. IT IS BASED ON PHILOSOPHIC AND MORAL GROUNDS AND IS NOT EASILY SUBJECT TO SUASION OF ANY SORT. WHILE HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS CAN BE EXPECTED, AS A GENERAL RULE, TO KEEP HIM FROM GOING TOO FAR OFF THE DEEP END IT IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL EVER ACCEPT LIVING WITH THE BOMB. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, PERSONAL OPINION, NPT, DISARMAMENT, SPEECHES, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PM KIRK COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NZ, ID, FR, (KIRK, NORMAN E)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005